

WEEKEND READING FOR THE PRESIDENT

21-22 March 1970

REFER TO DOS

Contents

EUROPEAN SECURITY

DOS reviewed. Unclassified. Release in full

1. Michel Tatu, "European Security Conference: What's In It For Whom?" Interplay, February 1970. (5 pp.)

A Le Monde correspondent specializing in Soviet and East European affairs has written an excellent article on the Soviet Union's objectives in pursuing a conference on European Security. The Soviet Union broached the idea before, in 1954, mainly as an attempt to block Western steps toward European unity. The political context is somewhat different today, but Soviet preoccupations in Europe -- maintenance of the status quo, restriction of Germany, and hostility to Western European unity -- remain the same.

U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY

2. Robert Strausz-Hupe, "On Deterrence," manuscript, January 1970. (18 pp.)

A thoughtful essay on the impact of nuclear weapons on international politics. The will to use power, Ambassador Strausz-Hupe argues, is more crucial to national power than mere possession of the weapons themselves. In the last 25 years, the impact of nuclear weaponry on events has been slight, simply because the United States has never been willing to exploit its nuclear advantage -- and because the Soviets know it.

PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT

3. "Now Just Watch Me" (editorial), The Economist, February 21, 1970. (4 pp.)

This piece, and the article following, are two critical comments on your Foreign Policy Report to the Congress that may be of interest.

The editors of The Economist welcome most of the substance of the Foreign Policy Report, but doubt whether it represents as much of a

"new era of American policy" as the Report claims. They see this period as one of "retrenchment" (not unlike some previous periods), and they suspect that another period of "activism" will follow it.

4. Hans J. Morgenthau, "Mr. Nixon's Foreign Policy," The New Republic, March 21, 1970. (3 pp).

Professor Hans Morgenthau finds much of the Report ambiguous and evasive. His article is angrily critical, but he also notes some sections of the Report which he regards as "brilliant, penetrating, and informative."

ANGLO - AMERICAN RELATIONS

5. L. W. Martin, "British Defence Policy: The Long Recessional," Adelphi Papers, No. 61, November 1969. (22 pp.)

A good survey and analysis of the evolution of British defense policy since the Second World War, by a British scholar now at the University of London. Martin discusses the political incentives and economic pressures that led the British Government to choose a European- and Atlantic-oriented strategy over a continuation of the British presence East of Suez. But the choice of Europe, he points out, raises new issues and choices in planning the composition and role of British forces.

6. "We Can't Burn It If It Isn't Built Yet," The Economist, February 7, 1970. (3 pp.)

The Economist ponders the question of whether, and how, Britain should participate in the celebration of the 200th anniversary of American independence. The editors' conclusion is that the American Revolution taught the British an imperial lesson, and that the British therefore need not treat the anniversary as an occasion for regret or shame. The British could also serve a decorative function at the ceremonies: "If the Americans want to raise once more the cry 'The redcoats are coming!' we should send them some redcoats."